



THIRTY-THIRD

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH OF STAFFORD.

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F. MILNES BLUMER,

B.A. Dunelm, M.B. & C.M. Edin.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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1906.

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STAFFORD:  
"CHRONICLE" PRINTING WORKS, 19, GREENGATE STREET.



Stafford,

26th February, 1907.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Public Health Committee.

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Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit herewith the Thirty-third Annual Report of the Health of the Borough of Stafford.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

F. MILNES BLUMER.



# REPORT.

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**Area.**—The Borough of Stafford contains an area of 1,084 acres.

**Population.**—The estimated population for the year 1906, including the Public Institutions, is 22,858. It is distributed as follows :—

Stafford Borough	..	..	..	20854
County Asylum	..	..	..	1028
Workhouse	..	..	..	308
H.M. Prison	..	..	..	668
				<hr/> 2004
Total	..	..	..	<hr/> 22858

The number of inhabited houses was 4,256, compared with 4,253 in the previous year. The population gives an average density of 21.08 per acre.

**Births.**—The number of births registered during the year was 565, of which 277 were males and 288 were females. The returns are equal to an annual rate of 26.49 per 1,000, With the single exception of the year 1903, when the rate was 26.12, this is the lowest rate recorded for the Borough. Comparative statistics are given in Table I. Illegitimate births numbered 23.

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\*The **Corrected Rates** are reckoned upon a population of 21,322 obtained by deducting 1,536 from the total, that being the proportion of those in the Institutions who do not belong to the Borough.

**Deaths.**—The total number of deaths registered in the district during the year was 473, of which 255 were males and 218 were females. There were 178 deaths of persons who did not belong to the Borough previous to their admission into one or other of the public institutions, and there were two deaths of “residents” registered in institutions beyond the District. The **corrected** number of deaths, therefore, is 297, which is equal to a rate of 13.92 per 1,000 per annum. Only twice has a lower rate been recorded, viz., in 1894, when it was 12.48, and in 1887, when it was 13.68. On reference to Table I., it will be seen that the average rate for the previous ten years is 15.89. The number of uncertified deaths was 4.

**Quarterly Returns.**—The 297 corrected deaths were returned thus :—

1st Quarter	80	Death-rate	15
2nd     ,,	77	,,	14.44
3rd     ,,	59	,,	11.06
4th     ,,	81	,,	15.19
Average	74.25	Average	13.92

**Infantile Mortality.**—There were 67 deaths of infants under a year old, which is equal to a rate of 118 per 1,000 registered births. In the previous year the rate was 134, while the average rate for the preceding ten years was 127. From Table V. it will be seen that nearly a third of the total number died during their first four weeks of life, and that nearly half had died by the end of the second month. The causes of death were Diarrhœal Diseases 16, Wasting Diseases 22, Tuberculous Diseases 2, Meningitis 3, Convulsions 14, Bronchitis and Pneumonia 8, Suffocation 1, Teething 1.

**Zymotic Diseases.**—There have been 25 deaths registered as due to the chief Infectious Diseases and Diarrhœa. Whooping Cough caused 4, Diphtheria 2, and Diarrhœal Diseases 19. The Zymotic death-rate is 1.17, compared with 1.64 in the previous year, and 1.51 the average for the preceding ten years. There were no deaths from Scarlet Fever or Enteric Fever.

TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF CORRECTED DEATHS FROM EACH OF THE SEVEN CHIEF ZYMOTIC DISEASES IN THE TEN YEARS 1896 TO 1905 AND IN THE YEAR 1906.

Diseases.	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	Average Annual Number of Deaths in the ten years 1896 to 1905.	1906
Small-pox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles .....	3	..	17	..	19	..	3	..	8	13	6.3	..
Scarlet Fever .....	4	..	1	4	..	9	4	3	1	1	2.7	..
Diphtheria .....	5	1	..	1	18	43	16	2	2	..	8.8	2
Whooping Cough .....	2	7	1	..	10	2	1	4	1	8	3.6	4
Typhus .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fever { Enteric .....	..	1	2	2	..	2	2	..	3	1	1.3	..
Continued .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhoeal Diseases .....	4	2	19	16	4	2	2	6	16	12	8.3	19
Total .....	18	11	40	23	51	58	28	15	31	35	31.0	25
Zymotic Death-rate per 1000 living .....	.90	.54	1.96	1.11	2.44	2.97	1.42	0.71	1.47	1.64	1.51	1.17

**Phthisis.**—There were 33 deaths from Phthisis, compared with 29·6, the average during the previous decennium, the death-rates respectively being 1·54 and 1·45.

Year.	No. of Deaths.	Rate per 1000
1896	29	1·45
1897	27	1·33
1898	33	1·62
1899	25	1·21
1900	28	1·34
1901	42	2·15
1902	33	1·68
1903	29	1·37
1904	25	1·18
1905	25	1·17
Yearly Average 1896-05	29·6	1·45
1906	33	1·54

**Developmental Diseases.**—There were 34 deaths in this Class, 9 due to Premature Birth, 3 to Congenital Defects, and 22 to Old Age.

**Local Diseases.**—There were 138 deaths in this Class, of which diseases of the Nervous System caused 36, Circulatory System 30, Respiratory System 50, Digestive System 13, Urinary System 7, and other Systems 2.

**Notification of Infectious Diseases.**—There were only 61 cases notified during the year, compared with an average of 173 for the previous ten years, and they were returned as



follows :—Scarlet Fever 47, Diphtheria 2, Enteric Fever 6, and Erysipelas 6. There were no cases of Smallpox or Puerperal Fever. I give in tabulated form the returns for the past ten years.

	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	Average for ten years.	1906
Small-pox . . . .	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	..	1.2	..
Scarlet Fever ..	101	110	33	80	86	162	93	53	12	24	75.4	47
Diphtheria . . . .	19	13	..	2	101	330	122	24	12	6	62.9	2
Simple Continued Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever ..	8	15	22	11	25	11	5	7	8	6	11.8	6
Erysipelas . . . .	15	17	13	18	23	24	32	22	15	22	20.1	6
Puerperal Fever	2	1	3	2	1	2	2	2	1	2	1.8	..
<b>TOTAL .</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>173.2</b>	<b>61</b>

**Scarlet Fever.**—There were 47 cases of this disease, compared with 24 in the previous year, and 75 the yearly average during ten years. They occurred in months thus :—1, 2, 1, 0, 0, 0, 1, 2, 6, 11, 20, 3. The great majority of the cases appeared in October and November. There was not a single case notified between March 7 and July 31. nearly five months. In the first week of November I found a child was attending the Infants' School in Corporation Street peeling freely, and there was the history of her having been ill three weeks previously with sore throat, accompanied by a rash. The child was, of course, promptly isolated; but not before it had spread infection, for eight other cases, I think, may be said to have arisen from her. The school was closed for a week, to cover the incubation period, and disinfected. The 47 cases occurred in 40 houses. This shows how seldom the disease spreads to the other members of a household, when the first case is seen early and promptly isolated. Isolation in hospital was resorted to in 45 instances, or 95 per cent. No deaths occurred.

**Diphtheria.**—Only 2 cases of Diphtheria have been notified, one of them being doubtful. The second case was probably due to the opening up of a blocked drain, and it is noteworthy that another child in the house was just recovering from "sore throat." Both cases were fatal.

**Enteric Fever**—Six cases were notified—the same number as in the previous year. The first case occurred in Wolverhampton Road, and arose, I think, from the patient eating contaminated watercress. The second case was introduced from Carmathen, and the third and fourth cases arose from it, being in the same family. The fifth case occurred in Weston Road, in an old house where the drainage was defective, and the general surroundings were dirty; but I cannot say the disease arose from this state of things. The sixth case was contracted in Derby. None of the cases were fatal.

**Whooping Cough.**—The epidemic of 1905 continued until the early part of this year, and the Infants' Schools remained closed until February 12th. Four deaths were registered.

**Isolation Hospital.**—There have been 45 cases admitted during the year—all Scarlet Fever. At the beginning of the year the cases were few, and during May, June, and July the hospital was empty. From August onwards the number of cases increased steadily, until the capacity of the wards and the Annexe was tested to the full extent, 20 patients being treated at one time. The lease of these temporary premises is now expiring, but satisfactory arrangements have been concluded whereby we can remain tenants until such time as we can acquire other premises. I am glad to know that the Health Committee is fully alive to the serious position it is in with regard to this provision, and I feel sure the outcome of its present deliberations will be one which will meet the requirements of a town of the size and importance of Stafford.

**Sewage Purification.**—Last year I recorded the reservation of an additional area of land, viz., 47 acres, for dealing with the sewage on the Lammascotes Farm. The analyses made by the County Analyst continue to show it is being satisfactorily treated, and that the effluent is good.

**Vaccination Statistics.**—The subjoined figures for 1905 apply to the whole of the Stafford Union:—

Births Registered .. ..	835
Vaccinated .. ..	676
Insusceptible .. ..	2
Certificates of Objection .. ..	29
Died Unvaccinated .. ..	85
Postponements .. ..	12
Removed to other Districts .. ..	5
Left, and not Found .. ..	26
	— 835

**Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.**—A Table is appended, giving Statistics required by the Home Secretary. The following is a summary of the work done under the provisions of the Act:—The number of Workshops on the register at the end of the year was 298—an increase of 5 over that of the previous year. They included 161 Ordinary Workshops, 100 Domestic Workshops, and 37 Retail Bake-houses. The chief industries carried on in them are Boot-making and Boot-repairing, Tailoring, Dressmaking, and Millinery. Cabinet-making, Upholstery, Fur-pulling, Box-making, and Brush-making are also carried on in the town. The number of Outworkers becomes smaller every year. The custom prevails for all operatives to work in factories, only old men and a few who may be engaged in special work being employed at their own homes. There are only 63 names now on the lists sent in, compared with 104 and 112 in the two previous years. There have been 136 inspections made of the Outworkers' premises, and as a result of these visits 19 notices have been served to correct faults. Only in one instance did Infectious Disease appear in an Outworker's house. The Inspector of Nuisances made 554 inspections of other premises, including 34 in Factories, 250 in Workshops, and 270 in Work-places. The ventilation was defective in 2 instances, and was remedied. In no instance has it been necessary to resort to a prosecution.

**Sanitary Inspection.**—A Table is appended giving statistics of work done during the year in the Inspector of Nuisances' Department. Ten houses were condemned as unfit for habitation. After formal notice nine have been repaired ; the tenth remains closed. Three others were dealt with informally, and repaired after notice had been served through the Inspector. Overcrowding was corrected in two instances. Structural defects in dwellings were corrected in eleven instances. The Slaughter-houses, Dairies and Milkshops, Cowsheds, Bakehouses, and Common Lodging-houses have been regularly visited during the year. A seizure was made of all the meat—14 pieces in all—of a butcher's shop on September 1st. The butcher was prosecuted for exposing unsound meat for sale, and a conviction was obtained, a fine of £5 and costs being inflicted by the magistrates. Forty-six houses and thirteen schools were disinfected after infectious disease, and seventy-eight lots of infected clothing and bedding were treated in the Steam Disinfector.

Tables of statistics, drawn up in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Board and of the Home Office, are appended.

F. MILNES BLUMER.

Stafford,

26th February, 1907.

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD RETURN.

TABLE I.

## URBAN DISTRICT OF STAFFORD.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1906 and previous years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITU- TIONS IN THE DISTRICT.	Deaths of Non- residents registered in Public Institu- tions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institu- tions beyond the District.	NET DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages.					Number.	Rate.*
				Number.	Rate per 1000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*					
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1896	20597	591	30·85	60	101	410	19·90	178	135	..	275	14·35
1897	20659	542	28·20	76	140	451	21·83	228	178	..	273	14·20
1898	20721	569	29·51	77	135	522	25·19	253	198	..	324	16·80
1899	20783	566	29·26	66	116	488	23·48	257	211	..	277	14·32
1900	20847	541	27·87	80	147	519	24·89	227	159	6	366	18·85
1901	20911	525	26·90	53	100	481	23·00	194	152	20	349	17·88
1902	21117	556	28·39	64	115	482	22·82	216	161	2	323	16·49
1903	22532	550	26·12	72	130	446	19·79	206	151	4	299	14·20
1904	22572	605	28·75	94	155	484	21·44	191	128	1	357	16·96
1905	22813	571	26·84	79	134	460	20·16	200	144	2	318	14·90
Averages for Years 1896-1905.	21355·2	561·6	28·26	72·1	127·3	474·3	22·25	215	161·7	..	316·1	15·89
1906	22858	565	26·49	67	118	473	20·69	231	178	2	297	13·92

\* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) { 1,084  
Total population at all ages..... 20,895 } At Census of 1901  
Number of inhabited houses..... 3,845  
Average number of persons per house 5·4



# LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD RETURN.

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1906.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							NO. OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL.
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years.						
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65		
Small-pox .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Cholera .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Diphtheria .. ..	2	..	1	1	..	..	..	
Membranous Croup	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Erysipelas .. ..	6	..	..	1	..	5	..	
Scarlet Fever ..	47	..	13	29	2	3	45	
Typhus Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Enteric Fever ..	6	..	..	2	1	3	..	
Relapsing Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Continued Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Puerperal Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Plague .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Totals .. ..	61	..	14	33	3	11	45	

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD RETURN.

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1906.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Net Deaths in or belonging to the District at subjoined ages.							Deaths in Public Insti- tutions in the District
	All Ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and up- wards	
Small-pox .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough .. .. .	4	..	4	..	..	..	..	2
Diphtheria & Membranous Croup	2	..	1	1	..	..	..	..
Croup .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fever { Typhus .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Enteric .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Other Continued .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Epidemic Influenza .. .. .	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Cholera .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhœa .. .. .	19	16	1	1	..	..	1	1
Enteritis .. .. .	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	2
Puerperal Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Septic Diseases .. .. .	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuber- culosis) .. .. .	33	..	1	2	8	22	..	39
Other Tubercular Diseases .. .. .	6	2	1	2	1	..	..	4
Cancer, Malignant Disease .. .. .	19	..	..	..	..	11	8	10
Bronchitis .. .. .	26	5	1	..	1	10	9	10
Pneumonia .. .. .	22	3	3	..	..	11	5	17
Pleurisy .. .. .	2	..	1	..	..	1	..	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs .. .. .	3	..	..	..	..	2	1	3
Alcoholism .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cirrhosis of Liver { .. .. .	3	..	..	..	..	3	..	1
Venereal Diseases .. .. .	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	2
Premature Birth .. .. .	9	9	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diseases & Accidents of Parturi- tion .. .. .	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Heart Diseases .. .. .	29	..	1	1	..	13	14	30
Accidents .. .. .	8	1	3	2	1	1	..	7
Suicides .. .. .	3	..	..	..	..	2	1	2
Diseases of Nervous System .. .. .	36	17	2	1	3	10	3	55
" Digestive .. .. .	13	2	..	3	1	6	1	7
" Urinary .. .. .	7	..	..	..	..	4	3	3
All other causes .. .. .	48	12	1	..	1	7	27	34
All causes .. .. .	297	67	20	14	16	107	73	231

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD RETURN.

TABLE V.

## Infantile Mortality during the Year 1906.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week																Total Deaths under One Year
	Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month	1-2 Months	2-3 Months	3-4 Months	4-5 Months	5-6 Months	6-7 Months	7-8 Months	8-9 Months	9-10 Months	10-11 Months	11-12 Months	
Diarrhoea, all forms	..	..	..	2	2	1	2	..	1	1	3	..	..	1	2	..	13
Enteritis, Musco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	3
Premature Birth	..	6	1	1	8	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	9
Congenital Defects	..	2	1	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	4
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	..	1	4	..	6	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Tuberculous Peritonitis: { Tabes Mesenterica	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	2
Meningitis ( <i>not Tuberculous</i> )	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	3
Convulsions	..	2	..	..	2	5	2	..	2	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	14
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	3
Suffocation, overlying	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Other Causes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
All Causes	..	11	2	6	21	10	8	2	7	3	5	5	0	3	2	1	67

Population: estimated to middle of 1906—22858.

Births in the year { Legitimate 542  
                              Illegitimate 23

Deaths in the year of { Legitimate infants 61  
                              Illegitimate infants 6

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages 297



# STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

TABLE VI.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK DONE IN THE NUISANCE  
INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1906, IN THE  
URBAN DISTRICT OF STAFFORD.

		Number of	Abatement Notices.		Nuisances Abated After Notice by	
			Inspections and Observations made	Informal by Inspector	Formal by Authority	Inspector
Dwelling houses and Schools	Foul Conditions .....		23		23	
	Structural Defects ..	..	11	..	11	..
	Overcrowding .....	..	2	..	2	..
	Unfit for Habitation ..	..	3	10	3	10
Lodging-houses .....		80	..	..	..	..
Dairies and Milkshops .....		30	..	..	..	..
Cowsheds .....		35	..	..	..	..
Bakehouses .....		82	..	..	..	..
Slaughter-houses .....		445	..	..	..	..
Stoppages in Closets .....		3203	..	..	..	..
Ash Tubs .....		..	9	..	9	..
Deposits of Refuse and Manure .....		..	3	..	3	..
Water Closets .....		..	64	..	64	..
House Drainage	No Disconnection ..	..	2	..	2	..
	Other Faults .....	..	28	..	28	..
Water Supply .....		..	2	..	2	..
Pigsties .....		..	..	..	..	..
Animals improperly kept .....		..	14	..	14	..
Offensive Trades .....		..	..	..	..	..
Smoke Nuisances .....		..	3	..	3	..
Other Nuisances .....		..	90	..	90	..
Totals .....		3875	254	10	254	10

Unwholesome food.	{	Number of Seizures .. ..	..	..	Nos.
		Condemned by Magistrate ..	..	..	1
		Prosecutions for exposing for sale ..	..	..	1
		Convictions ditto ditto ..	..	..	1

## Precautions against Infectious Disease.

Lots of Infected Bedding Disinfected or Destroyed ..	78
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease .. ..	46
Schools Disinfected after Infectious Disease .. ..	13

# FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

## I.—INSPECTION.

INCLUDING INSPECTION MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS  
OR INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

PREMISES.	Number of	
	Inspections	Written Notices.
Factories .. .. . (Including Factory Laundries.)	34	..
Workshops .. .. . (Including Workshop Laundries.)	250	..
Workplaces .. .. . (Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Re- port.)	270	
Total .. .. .	554	..

## 2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS.	Number of Defects.	
	Found.	Remedied
Want of Ventilation .. .. .	2	2
Total .. .. .	2	2

### 3.—HOMEWORK.

Class	Number	
Making of Wearing Apparel:	Number of	
	Lists.	Outworkers.
Lists received .. .. .	49	127
Addresses of Outworkers forwarded to other Authorities ..	27	
Inspection of Outworkers' Premises .. .. .	136	
Outwork in Unwholesome Premises (s. 108):— Notices served .. .. .	19	
Outwork in Infected Premises (s. 109, 110):— Orders made .. .. .	1	

### 4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year :—	
Workshops .. .. .	161
Domestic Workshops .. ..	100
Retail Bakehouses .. .. .	37
Total number of Workshops on Register .. .. .	298

### 5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory & Workshop Act (s 133)	1

